

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio Mining Journal

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School of Mines, Ohio State University.

Mr. Howells: While I think of it I wish to say that last year, through this Association, we were successful in establishing a School of Mining at the University, and I think it would be very well to have another committee appointed by this Association to see if we cannot further that object by securing from the present Legislature more appropriation, or to have a similar one this year, or a better one if we can. I suppose they will do all they can anyhow. I move, Mr. Chairman, that a committee, consisting of Mr. Jennings, our worthy President, Mr. McMillin, and Mr. Haseltine, be appointed for that purpose.

The motion being seconded, then prevailed.

The Chair: We would like to hear from Prof. Lord as to what has been done at the University.

Prof. Lord: I was put on the programme here for a paper without any title. I am very much obliged for appointing this committee. I think that the work that has been done should not be allowed to stop. At the recent meeting of the Society last summer and a year ago last February, I said something in regard to the course, and to-day instead of a paper I wish simply to say a few words in regard to the present condition of the course at the State University, and the way it has opened this fall. Of the general course it is not necessary to say anything. That stands as it has stood, a four years' course, leading to the degree of mining engineer. We graduated some good men last year, and expect to graduate some good men this year. But in regard to the experimental course, which I called your attention to last July, the short mining course, that course has been opened this year for the first time. We have in it now several students. We have three men in the course who have had several years experience; one of them, I believe, has worked in mines ever since he was nine years old, I think he says. But certainly these gentlemen have had some experience as practical miners. They are now in the school, and are studying with the object of completing this short mining course. The work that they are doing and will do has a direct practical bearing on their work as miners, and we expect that, after completing their two years' course, this being the first year,

they will be sufficiently well trained in all the details of mining, surveying and mapping, ventilation, drainage, etc., to send them back to the mines with an increase in the facility in the work.

The course, so far, is successful, and is meeting the patronage of the men we hope to get. The fear I had was that it would be an easy school for boys, who would think they could go there and spend a little while, and then claim they had been trained as mining engineers. We have tried to guard against that. We have only opened a course to those men who have had some experience, or have had advanced work in some of the other departments of the college. One or two have come from that position. I am very glad to say that the short course is meeting recognition from young men who have had this sort of practical training. Of course, this is the first year, and the number of students is not large, but from the experience we are having with these men, and the character of the men, I have faith to believe that the attendance in this school will increase, and I can report to the Society that we now have young men in it who have worked for years in the mines, who are taking this course to train them better to become mine bosses and mine foremen. The school is rather singular in this country, I think, in giving just that course. I think it is the first instance in this country where a school offers specific training of this character for men who have had practical experience, and the success which the course has met with, I think abundantly warrants the Society in the action which was taken in appointing a committee to look to our source of supplies this winter to a certain extent, and see that we are able to carry it out. That this committee will be successful in securing the appropriation, I have no doubt. The appropriation last winter was of such a character in its provisions that it made the expense necessarily continuous through a series of years if the school was to be kept up, and in that way, while it did not formally state that the appropriation would be annual, it implied the necessity of a continual appropriation, and I hope the committee will succeed in getting an appropriation, and that next winter I will be able to report that the course in mining has met with greater success. The chemical work of the school, that is the increased facilities in direct technical chemistry, training men for iron and steel testing and analysis, is also meeting with a good deal of success. The laboratory is pretty well attended, and the demand is increasing for men who have had this training, so that I think in both directions, that of furnishing chemists and practical miners, the school is in a condition now, when it is finding a patronage and supplying the training, that it has never been able to do until the appropriation secured by the efforts of this Society were made last winter, and until we were started on the road we entered a year ago. I am sorry that my associate, Prof. Sperr, is not here to-

day, as I know he had something to say about the school, but unfortunately, he was taken sick a few days ago, and is confined to his house.

Mr. Roy: There is one thing else, Mr. President, and that is whether we have all done our duty towards securing students for the new department, the short term in the mining course. We have one from West Virginia, and one from Pennsylvania, and seven from Ohio, but there ought to have been at least twenty from Ohio. It seems that the school has not been sufficiently advertised, and that we have all been negligent in the matter, or there would have been more students. There is perhaps no more than we had a reasonable expectation of having, but there certainly would have been more if we had done what we should have done.

Mr. Haseltine: I agree with my friend Roy as to the matter of negligence. I was very much gratified to think that we had as many as we have in this limited time. This school of mines, this limited course in the school of mines, is intended for men who have started in the vocations of life, and have positions, and who wish to take this course in order to better fill them. Many of them have families and the limited time from the time the appropriation is passed creating the short mining course until the beginning of the course was too short to expect great results from this class of people. A man who holds a situation cannot give it up in a moment. Many of them are not provided with sufficient means to take care of themselves while here, and some have families that they have to provide for before they can come here, and it takes time. We are expecting too much. As Professor Lord said it is not intended for boys, but rather for the older men who are more advanced in life, and these men must have time, they have to discuss it and lay their plans, and then mature them. It may take it some years to grow and develop. In the course of three or four or five years I have no doubt in the world that we will have a fine attendance out there, and that the members of the Institute will be proud of what little exertion they have made in that matter.

The Chair: I am very glad to know that there are some students from other States. I think that each one of those that we have now will be an advertisement and will do as much for the school or more than our members.

Mr. Howells: It struck me as something singular and I do not question the wisdom of it at all, but it struck me as something singular for students from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland, to be educated by an appropriation made by the State of Ohio.

Prof. Orton: They will probably go to work in Ohio.

Mr. Howells: Well I think after staying here two years they will not be likely to go away as Ohio is too good a State.

Prof. Orton: It is so in all the departments of the State University; we have never been obliged to ask as to State lines.

Mr. Roy: Brother Haseltine is mistaken I think in stating that the school is for older people. The school as I understand it, and I think as Prof. Lord will admit, is for young men rather than for older men. Of course the older men are welcome, but boys of nineteen who have been trained in the mines will find the kind of education there that will fit them for their life work, and I do not think we ought to encourage the idea that it is for the older people.

Mr. Howells: What is the standard of education required?

Prof. Lord: Merely the elements of a common school education such as would fit a man for entering high school.

Mr. Howells: Of course there are many young men of fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen who have not had much time to obtain education.

Prof. Lord: We have provided for that by admitting to the school men who have been employed in the mines, and are over nineteen, I believe it is, taking that as sufficient and then letting them see if they can do the work in the school, as the work done there is of such a character that a man can begin it, supposing that he knows the ordinary run of arithmetic, geography, etc. The idea of the short mining course was to provide for an intelligent and better equipped class of men who had worked up in the mines, men expecting to become mine bosses, foremen, etc. Of course that kind of a course is not for anyone in particular. It presupposes that a man shall have a certain maturity of judgment and fixity of purpose, and ability enough to pursue the course. Now when I said it was for old men and not for boys I did not mean necessarily men settled in life and married, but I mean what is meant by the specifications for entries, that is men over a certain age and admitted without examination. It is intended for men that have sufficient experience to pursue this sort of work. The object, I think, is to keep out of the course no young man who wants to be a miner, but boys who have been to school for a while and boys that do not want to follow this course up, but who by their training may be able to get in because of their school training, these, should go into the college or into the regular classes of the institution and look forward to a longer course.

Mr. Howells: Do you require any certain amount of training in the mine?

Prof. Lord: Any man can enter the course who can pass the regular examinations to college. That would require a certain amount of education. But the course is arranged so that a man who has had actual experience is allowed to enter without an examination, but the man who enters without that must have school or college training we judge to be equivalent to this training.

Mr. Haseltine: Are not some of the men now there married men?

Prof. Lord: Yes, sir.

A Member: May I inquire on what terms they are admitted?

Prof. Lord: There is a charge of five dollars a term for incidentals.

A Member: And they must provide themselves with books?

Prof. Lord: Well the books we provide.

Mr. Roy: I do not feel that we are quite through with this yet. Would not it be a good idea to get a circular of the short course and send it out into the mining districts of the State and through the various mining districts of the different States, and all of us who can write keep writing to the mining journals on the subject? It was by a letter that appeared in the *Labor Tribune* that the gentleman from West Virginia came here. I will venture that four-fifths of the young men working around the mines in this State to-day do not know that there is such a course, and if we are going to have a school and ask for appropriations we must do something to keep the school up, and I do not feel that we ought to leave here without all confessing that we should do something more than we have done after we go away.

Prof. Thomas: It seems to me a very good comment indeed upon the favor with which this short mining course has been received by the people for whose benefit it was organized and started, to find that to-day nearly three per cent. of the students at the Ohio State University, are in the short mining course. I speak of it here, as there seems to be need of a little encouragement to the Society as to the present condition of the School. I should deprecate putting too many men in there at once. The course is new. There is no other institution giving anything like it, and I think Prof. Lord and Prof. Sperr themselves, if they would talk right out in meeting, would say that they would prefer not to have a large number of students in the beginning. All of us who have been engaged in teaching work know that it is pretty hard to start a new line of work, if you are crowded with a number of students starting in on that work. You had better make a record in the turning out of three or four boys a year for five or six years who take rank at once and are pointed out as examples of the character turned out of that institution, than fifty a year, each one of whom has been rubbed over a little but not polished.

Prof. Orton: The gentlemen are all right. We need to make haste slowly, but we need on the other hand to make all the effort we can when making haste slowly. It is pretty hard work. There are not a great many of the boys about the mines who can raise the funds to come to College. The upshot of it is that we have made a good beginning with the aid of the mining institute. We want your good will. We want your work and effort con-

stantly. Mr. Roy has brought out a very interesting fact that it is these letters that come from the different representatives of the interests that attract the attention and bring the young men to us. We are started well and want to keep on just as we are going.

Mr. Howells: I think that Mr. Roy's remarks are very pertinent to the situation from this fact. As I understand the matter, the school of mines, that department was more for the benefit of young men that had already some knowledge of practical mining than it was for those that did not have. Am I correct?

Prof. Lord: Yes, sir; that is the short course.

Mr. Howells: And those that want anything more than that can take the regular course?

Prof. Lord: Yes, sir.

Mr. Wheeler: Mr. Chairman, I think if this matter was brought properly to the attention of large mining companies that they would pick out young men and help them. Now we have a mine boss at our mines who has been there with us for nearly thirty years. His head is getting pretty white and he is getting too old to go around in the mines every day, and it would be a very good thing to send a young man up here and put him through that course and bring him back and give him a position under our mine boss as assistant. I am just speaking from my view of our own necessity and I suppose other mining companies may be in the same position. If we should lose our mine boss I would not know where to go to get another man to take his place. But if we had a young man to take this course with that special contingency in view, it would be a very great help.

A Member: I would like to ask whether students can enter at any time?

Prof. Lord. Of course they can enter at any point where they are prepared to enter the class. Of course we begin the classes every year. If a young man should enter a class late in the fall or at this time of year, it would be necessary to bring up the work at that point. Frequently it can be done, but usually it is better to begin at the beginning of the year, but if it is not too late it can be done.

A Member: Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting and listening to the discussion, that has been brought out about this short term in college, which I have been visiting to-day. It is my first visit to Columbus, and I have an object in view; and in the different discussions upon this matter, I believe every one means well, but I believe in the ideas that Prof. Orton puts forth; that none can do too much towards accomplishing the end, which it is the purpose to accomplish. The students, I presume, that are in this short course, have been making preparations heretofore for doing something of this kind, hardly knowing it was to be accomplished. I am proud to say it is a credit to them, and to any

young man that takes such steps. I feel rejoiced also, to say that I believe it is one of the grandest things that has ever come into existence in the State of Ohio. I have traveled through several counties in this State, and I see this is a necessity, and I saw it long ago. I have felt the necessity for something of that kind. I have two boys, which I hope, if the thing goes on in the way that it has, to send to a place of that kind. Whilst I might be able to send mine, and Mr. Roy might be able to send his, there is a class that would have to defer going there. As has been stated, they have to make preparations for that. I believe it would be advisable for every one to use all the means he could, to try and urge upon the young men in the mines in this country from eighteen up to twenty-two and twenty-three, the necessity of taking that course, and I believe in a short time, they would begin to make preparations for it; and it will accomplish the end, for which it was intended.

Mr. Roy: I would like to see some action taken by this Society, or the Inspector of Mines, towards issuing a circular, to all the various mining districts, to be put into the hands of the mine-holders and superintendents about every where, and in this way, I think we could have more students. We will find it necessary to be doing this all the time, to keep up the supply. I do not know whether it is necessary for a motion or not, but I would like to see some action of that kind.

The Chair: I think that would be the duty of the college, rather than the institute.

Mr. Roy: Well, let the college do it, too.

The Chair: I think it would be the duty of the college, but I am sure the Inspector would assist Prof. Lord, in giving him the names of the mine-owners and operators in this State, if that would accomplish the desired object.

Prof. Orton: Whatever the college can do, it will be glad to do.

Mr. Haseltine: I do not know where the funds are coming from, to do it. If the University will furnish the circulars and pay for the printing, I will very gladly furnish the University with the address or addresses of all the operators and bank bosses, and other people that are on our lists, perhaps to the tune of three or four thousand, if they desire them, not only of Ohio, but other States.

Prof. Lord: I think the suggestion of the chair is a very good one, that that is part of the University's business, and it is my intention to print this winter, a short slip, giving the terms of admission to the mining course, the course of study, expenses, etc., and get Mr. Haseltine to mail some of them. There is one form of advertising the short course, which I think is very important, and that is, from time to time to have a little

notice in the Colliery Engineer, or Black Diamond, etc., and I think in that way Mr. Haseltine, Mr. Roy, and such men can do us more good than any other way. That will reach an audience, where a circular from the University will not reach.

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